* SC/ST households affected by flood, fire, earthquake and similar natural calamities.
* Other SC/ST households below poverty line.
* Non SC/ST households below poverty line.
* Physically handicapped.
* Families/widows of personnel from defence service/para-military forces, killed in action.
* Displaced persons on account of development projects, nomedic semi-nomadic, and de-notified tribals and families with disabled members, subject to the condition that these households belongs to below poverty line category.

(b) to (d) The selection procedure for IAY beneficiaries has been streamlined with effect from 1.4.98. Accordingly, it has been decided that District Rural Development Agencies (DRDA) Zilla Parishads on the basis of allocations made and targets fixed shall decide Panchayat-wise number of houses to be constructed under IAY, during a particular financial year and intimate the same to the Gram Panchayat. Thereafter, the Gram Sabha will select the beneficiaries restricting its number to the target allotted, from the list of eligible households, according to IAY guidelines and as per priorities fixed. No approval of the Panchayat Samiti will be required. The Panchayat Samiti should however, be sent a list of selected beneficiarises for their information. This ensures selection of beneficiaries in a transparent and objective manner.

Million Wells' Scheme

847. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of the "Million Wells' Scheme";

(b) whether this programme has been abandoned;

(c) the funds earmarked for this scheme in 1998-99; and

(d) what are the main features of this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) The Million Wells Scheme (MWS) continues to be implemented as an on-going scheme to provide open irrigation wells free of cost to poor small and marginal farmers who are below poverty line and freed bonded labourers.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The tentative Central allocation for the Scheme during 1998-99 is Rs. 450 crore.

(d) The main features of MWS besides the one mentioned in reply to part (a) above are:—

(i) The expenditure under the scheme is shared between the Centre and the States in the ratio of 80:20.

(ii) The state-wise allocation under the Scheme is made on the basis of the proportion of rural poor in State to the total rural poor in the country.

(iii) If wells are not feasible due to geological factors, the amounts allotted under MWS may be utilised for other works of minor irrigation like irrigation tanks, water harvesting structures and also for development of lands belonging to small and marginal farmers. The amount can not be diverted for any other works.

(iv) The beneficiaries themselves implement the schemes by their own labour for which they are paid wages or by hiring local labourers. Contractors are strictly prohibited.

(v) The beneficiaires are selected by the Village Panchayats and then approved by the DRDAs/Zilla Parishads.

(iv) The financial assistance provided to Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) poor small and marginal farmers must not be less than two third of the total funds utilised under the Scheme in a Year.

(vii) A reservation of 3% should be made for disabled persons. This reservation should be horizontal reservation i.e. disabled persons of different categories would fall in their respective categories.

Provision of Safe drinking water in villages of Karnataka

848. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are villages in Karnataka where drinking water is not available;

(b) is so, the numbers thereof; and

(c) the steps Government popose to take to provide safe drinking water to such villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT

(SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the reports received from Government of Karnataka, as on 1.4.1998, there are 1940 not covered habitations with no public drinking water sources in Karnataka.

(c) Rural Water Supply is a State subject. As per the Action Plan formulated by Government of Karnataka, all the habitations in Karnataka are to be provided with safe drinking water as per the national norms of 40 litres per capita per day during the 9th Plan period.

Central Rural Sanitation Programme

849. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI:

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount utilised by the States during 1996-97 under Central Rural Sanitation Programme and the State-wise allocation made by Government; and

(b) the criteria adopted for the allocation of funds to the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) A Statement showing the State-wise allocation and the amount utilised by the States under the Centrally sponsored Rural Sanitation Programme during 1996-97 is enclosed. (*See* below)

(b) The criteria adopted for the allocation of funds to the States are as follows:—

* 50% weightage being given to incidence of poverty in States/UTs.
* 40% weightage being given to rural population.
* 10% weightage being given to the recognised hill states and hilly areas on the basis of their population.

Statement

Financial progress Under CRSP during 1996-97

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Allocation	Release	Expenditure
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pr.	343.00	590.014	1023.23
2.	Arunachal Pr.	8.00	4.000	9.12
3.	Assam	130.00	11.179	0.00
4.	Bihar	603.00	16.391	0.00
5.	Goa	5.00	2.500	20.00
6.	Gujarat	155.00	175.000	228.47
7.	Haryana	56.00	56.000	71.25
8.	Himachal Pr.	54.00	27.000	159.57
9.	J&K	75.00	37.500	13.07